

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 /056 W

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P R 130932Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3178

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 13492

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: REPORTS OF CURRENT POLITICAL TROUBLE WITH MILITARY

SUMMARY. TWO SEPARATE SOURCES HAVE REPORTED CURRENT INFORMATION FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN CHINA THAT SERIOUS POLITICAL TROUBLE WITH THE MILITARY IS BREWING . END SUMMARY

1. RELIABLE HONG MONG BUSINESS SOURCE PASSED TO CONGENOFF INFORMATION ABOUT NPC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS ACQUIRED IN SHANGHAI BY HONG KONG LEFTIST WHO RETURNED IN EARLY DECEMBER FROM VISIT TO THAT CITY. THE LEFTIST, WHO HAS RELATIVES IN INFLUENTIAL PARTY POSITIONS IN CITY, SAID THAT TWO FOURTH NPC DELEGATES FROM SHANG DI HAD BEEN NAMED TO REPRESENT THE CAPITALIST CATEGORY AT THE FOURTH NPC, WITH LIU NIEN-YI (0491/1819/5030) A WELL-KNOWN FORMER INDUSTRIALIST, BEING ONE. HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH THIRD NPC WHICH HAD INCLUDED OVER TEN DELGATES FROM SHANGHAI TO REPRESNNT THE 300,000 PEOPLE IN SHANGHAI CLASSIFIED IN THE CAPITALIST CATEGORY AND SAID THAT REPRESENTED A CLEAR DOWNGRADING OF THE STATUS OF THE CAMPITALIST

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CATEGORY.

2. THE LEFTIST

ALSO SAID HIS RELATIVES, IN HIS PRESENCE, HAD ALSO TALKED ABOUT A POLITBURO MEETING THAT WAS HELD IN PEKING OCTOBER 1974. AT THE MEETING PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI ALLEGEDLY SAID HE WOULD GIVE UP HIS POSITION BECAUSE HE WAS SICK AND OLD. CHU TEH, HOWEVER, BECAME VERY ANGRY AND POUNDING TABLE SAID THIS COULD NOT BE AND THREATENED THAT IF CHOU WERE TO RESIGN, " WE WILL GO TO THE MOUNTAINS AND START ANOTHER REVOLUTION". AT THIS POINT MAO INTERJECTED THAT THIS MATTER SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN UP AT THIS MEETING BUT LATER. HOWEVER, MAO SHORTLY THEREAFTER LEFT PEKING FOR THE PROVINCES AND THE MATTER REMAINS UNSETTLED. LEFTIST'S RELATIVE SAID THAT THIS STORY WAS WELL KNOWN AMONG THE CADRE AND WAS BEING MUCH DISCUSSED. THEY INTERPRETED IT TO MEAN THAT THE TOP LEADERSHIP WAS DIVIDED INTO GROUPS AND CHOU'S SUPPORTERS AND ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY LEADERS SUCH AS CHU TEH AND YEH CHIEN-YING BELIEVE THAT THE LEFTISTS WERE TRYING TO FORCE CHOU OUT OF POWER AND THEY WERE PREPARED TO FIGHT AGAINST THIS.

3. MEANWHILE A RELIABLE PUBLICATIONS PROCUREMENT SOURCE HAS TOLD A CONGENOFF OF INFORMATION HE LEARNED FROM A HONG KONG RESIDENT WHO RETURNED DECEMBER 1 FROM A VISIT TO CANTON. FAMILY MEMBERS, INCLUDING A HIGH-LEVEL MEMBER OF THE KWANGTUNG PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE, ADVISED THE RESIDENT TO RETURN TO HONG KONG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THERE WERE "SERIOUS PROBLEMS" WITH THE ARMY; IT NO LONGER LISTENED TO CHAIRMAN MAO OR CHIANG CHING AND GRAIN RESERVES WERE BEING PUT AWAY BY THE ARMY AS THOUGH PREPARATIONS WERE BEING UNDERTAKEN FOR CIVIL WAR. THIS SAME PROCUREMENT SOURCE REPORTED THAT ANOTHER ACQUAINTANCE TRAVELLING FROM HONG KONG 59 (238)8,, KWANGSI WAS TURNED BACK AT THE PRC BORDER AND WAS NOT ALLOWED TO TRAVEL THERE.

4. COMMENT. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION OF COURSE TO ASCRETAIN THE FACTUAL BASIS OF THIS INFORMATION ABOUT TROUBLE WITH THE MILITARY. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN MEDIA INDICATIONS OF CONCERN THAT THE PLA IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY REPSONSIVE TO PARTY INSTRUCTIONS, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE HARD EVIDENCE OF CONFRONTATION. WHETHER THE ABOVE REPORTS, WHICH PARALLEL EARLIER RUMORS PICKED UP IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PEKING AND HERE (PEKING 1850), HAVE VALIDITY OR NOT, WE BELIEVE THEY ARE BEING DISCUSSED AMONG CADRES IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS. GETSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL CONDUCT, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS  
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**TAGS:** PINT, CH  
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